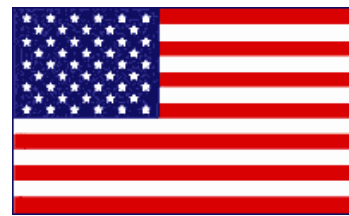




# PORTLAND VA MEDICAL CENTER

*Portland, Oregon Division  
Vancouver, Washington Division  
Community Based Outpatient Clinics  
Salem, OR Bend, OR  
Longview, WA Camp Rilea (Warrenton, OR)*



## NOTICE OF VACANCY \*AMENDED\* 7-12-06

1. <u>Announcement Number</u>  <b>T38H-06-303-DB</b>	2. <u>Title, Series, Grade, Salary</u>  <b>Medical Technologist (Microbiology) GS-644-7, Target GS-9 or GS-9 \$38,489 to \$58,149 per annum</b>	3. <u>Tour of Duty</u>  <b>Days M-F</b>	4. <u>Duty Station</u>  <b>Pathology &amp; Laboratory Service, Portland Division</b>
5. <u>Type &amp; Number of Vacancies</u>  <b>Temporary, NTE 3 yrs May be converted to permanent without further competition. 1 Full-time position</b>	6. <u>Contact</u>  <b>Human Resources Assistant 503-220-8262 x 57317</b>	7. <u>Opening Date</u>  <b>5/4/06</b>	8. <u>Closing Date</u>  <b>Until Filled 1<sup>st</sup> consideration 5/17/06</b>

### WHO MAY APPLY TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT:

- Any US Citizen

### MAJOR DUTIES:

Serves as a medical technologist in the microbiology/serology section of the clinical laboratory of a large, comprehensive-care medical center associated with a medical school. The technologist has the responsibility for performing and monitoring some or all of the following routine and specialized microbiology/serology tests: aerobic and anaerobic bacteriology, mycology, mycobacteriology, parasitology, antimicrobials testing and serology/immunology. Evaluates requested procedures and corresponding specimens for appropriateness and suitability of specimen. Selects the procedures which are appropriate for the requested service and congruent with patient considerations. Processes specimens using equipment, instruments or techniques necessary in preparation for analysis, controlling physical conditions and time elements to insure maintenance of the physiologically appropriate state of the specimens. Determines priority of testing, considering complex information relating to patient and hospital staff requirements. Conducts appropriate quality control testing on reagents, culture media, instruments and test systems, and maintains records of this testing as required by laboratory accreditation agencies such as Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), the College of American Pathologists (CAP), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Performs and interprets the complex network of variables involved in microbial identification processes.

### **THIS POSITION IS IN THE BARGAINING UNIT**

### QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

**Eligibility:** U.S. Office of Personnel Management Qualification Standards Handbook for GS-644 series applies and may be reviewed in the Human Resources Management Service office. Regulatory requirements such as "time-in-grade" and "time after competitive appointment" are applicable.

#### Basic Requirements:

A. Degree: medical technology, chemistry, or biology that included or was supplemented by at least:

- 16 semester hours of biological sciences of which one course was in microbiology and one course was in immunology. (NOTE: If there is no mention of immunology or immunobiology in the course title, the requirement for a course in immunology may be met by any course that covers the following topic areas: (1) definition and relationships of antigens and antibodies; (2) host-antigen interactions; (3) bursal and thymic influences on lymphoid cells; and (4) humoral and cellular response mechanisms.) The remaining biology courses must have been in general biology, zoology, or any of the areas listed below under "Evaluation of Education and Experience";
- 16 semester hours of chemistry of which one course was in organic or biochemistry. The remaining chemistry courses must have been in general chemistry, qualitative analysis, qualitative chemistry, quantitative chemistry, physical chemistry, analytical chemistry, or any of the areas listed below under "Evaluation of Education and Experience"; and
- 3 semester hours of college mathematics.

OR

- B. A full 4-year course of study that included or was supplemented by at least 12 months in a college or hospital-based medical technology program or medical technology school approved by a recognized accrediting organization. The professional medical technology curriculum may have consisted of a 1-year post-baccalaureate certificate program or the last 1 or 2 years of a 4-year program of study culminating in a bachelor's in medical technology.

OR

(Continued on next page)

- C. A combination of (1) at least 35 semester hours of biological science, chemistry, and mathematics as described in paragraph A above and (2) additional appropriate education and/or experience totaling 4 years. This combination of education and experience must have provided knowledge of the theories, principles, and practices of medical technology equivalent to that provided by the full 4-year course of study described in A or B above. All science and mathematics courses must have been acceptable for credit toward meeting the requirements for a science major at an accredited college or university. Acceptable experience is responsible professional or technician experience in a hospital laboratory, health agency, industrial medical laboratory, or pharmaceutical house; or teaching, test development, or medical research program experience that provided an understanding of the methods and techniques applied in performing professional clinical laboratory work. Certification/licensure as a medical technologist (generalist) obtained through written examination by a nationally recognized credentialing agency or State licensing body is a good indication that the quality of experience is acceptable. Please submit a copy of your college transcripts with application packet.

**Evaluation of Education and Experience:** The four major areas of clinical laboratory science are microbiology, clinical chemistry, hematology, and immunohematology (blood banking). Qualifying course work in these areas includes bacteriology, mycology, mycobacteriology, tissue culture, virology, parasitology, endocrinology, enzymology, toxicology, urinalysis, coagulation, hemostasis, cell morphology, immunology, serology, immunoserology, immuno-deficiency, hemolysis, histocompatibility, cytogenetics, and similar disciplines or areas of laboratory practice.

**Related fields** include physiology, anatomy, molecular biology, cell biology, embryology, pathology, genetics, pharmacology, histology, cytology, nuclear medicine, epidemiology, biostatistics, infection control, physics, statistics, and similar areas of science where the work is directly related to the position to be filled. For positions above grade GS-5, experience or graduate education must have been in (1) the general field of medical technology, (2) one of the disciplines or specialized areas of medical technology, or (3) a field directly related and applicable to medical technology or the position to be filled.

**Work-study** experience in a clinical laboratory as a student medical technologist in a CAHEA-accredited education program may be credited on a month-for-month basis toward meeting the GS-7 specialized experience requirement. (NOTE: A typical program comprises 12 consecutive months of professional study, including didactic and practical instruction. Approximately 6 to 7 months are devoted to lectures, laboratory study, demonstrations, and seminars covering theory and technique in clinical laboratory science. The other 5 to 6 months are devoted to clinical laboratory rotations. It is the latter, i.e., the period(s) of supervised work experience in a service laboratory that may be credited as work-study experience.

**Superior Academic Achievement** – Individuals who have completed all the requirements for an appropriate bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university may be rated eligible for the **GS-7** grade provided they meet one of the requirements listed below:

1. **Class standing**--Applicants must be in the upper third of the graduating class in the college, university, or major subdivision, such as the College of Liberal Arts or the School of Business Administration, based on completed courses.
2. **Grade-point average (G.P.A.)**--Applicants must have a grade-point average of:
  - a. **3.0 or higher out of a possible 4.0 ("B" or better)** as recorded on their official transcript, or as computed based on 4 years of education, or as computed based on courses completed during the final 2 years of the curriculum; or
  - b. **3.5 or higher out of a possible 4.0 ("B+" or better)** based on the average of the required courses completed in the major field or the required courses in the major field completed during the final 2 years of the curriculum.
3. **Election to membership in a national scholastic honor society**--Applicants can be considered eligible based on membership in one of the national scholastic honor societies. These honor societies are listed in the *Association of College Honor Societies: Booklet of Information* (1992-95) and/or Baird's *Manual of American College Fraternities* (1991).

**Specialized Experience:** One year of experience that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position, and that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled. To be creditable, specialized experience must have been equivalent to at least the next lower grade level in the normal line of progression for the occupation in the organization.

**Substitution of Education for Experience:** **GS-7** 1 year of graduate-level education or superior academic achievement If using education as a substitute for experience, please submit a copy of your college transcripts with application packet.

#### **BASIS OF RATING: (Knowledge, Skills, Abilities (KSAs))**

***On a separate sheet of paper, provide a written, detailed response to each of the KSAs. Failure to respond to rating factors will result in applicant not being referred for the position:***

1. Knowledge of general and special bacteriology, anaerobic bacteriology, mycology, parasitology, mycobacteriology, immunology, infection control surveillance, sanitation, antimicrobial susceptibility testing and assays, enzyme immunoassay, and nucleic acid hybridization technology.
2. Knowledge of principles and practice of organic and inorganic chemistry and laboratory mathematics sufficient for preparation of chemical reagents and for reduction and interpretation of laboratory technical data.
3. Knowledge of anatomy and physiology for their application in the differentiation of normal and pathogenic flora in patient specimens.
4. Knowledge and skill to conduct quality control procedures, perform testing for external proficiency programs, maintain quality control record systems, and implement corrective actions when indicated by quality control results.
5. Ability to instruct new personnel, medical technology students, physicians, and other medical professionals in the basic principles and techniques of microbiology, serology, and molecular diagnostics.

## **CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:**

This is an Excepted Appointment. Excepted service positions have been excepted from the requirements of the competitive service by law, Executive Order, or by OPM regulation (5 USC 2103 and 5 CFR part 213). Public law No. 108-170 converts this occupational series from the competitive civil service to the Hybrid Title 38 employment system.

Although the duty station is shown in this announcement, it may be necessary to utilize the selected person's services at a different location within the Portland VA Medical Center commuting area if conditions require it in the future

Under Executive Order 11935, only United States citizens and nationals (residents of American Samoa and Swains Island) may compete for civil service jobs. Agencies are permitted to hire noncitizens only in very limited circumstances where there are no qualified citizens available for the position.

A background security investigation will be required for all new hires. Appointment will be subject to the applicant's successful completion of a background security investigation and favorable adjudication. Failure to successfully meet these requirements will be grounds for termination.

\*Recruitment or Relocation Incentive may be authorized for a high quality candidate.

This is a developmental position. The employee may be promoted without further competition upon satisfactory completion of qualification and eligibility requirements.

A drug test may be required for an applicant who is tentatively selected.

A pre-employment physical examination will be required for an applicant who is tentatively selected.

This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, politics, marital status, non-disqualifying physical or mental handicap, age or membership or non-membership in a labor organization.

It is the policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs that all Federal wage and salary payments are paid to employees by Direct Deposit/Electronic Funds Transfer (DD/EFT).

## **HOW TO APPLY:**

**All application packets must be received in Human Resources by Close of Business (COB) on 5/17/06 for first consideration. This position is Open until Filled.** Application forms may be obtained in Human Resources Office or on our external website, [www.va.gov/Portland/hr/index.asp](http://www.va.gov/Portland/hr/index.asp).

*Applications may be mailed to:*

Portland VA Medical Center, P4HRMS  
**Attn: T38H-06-303-DB**  
PO Box 1034  
Portland, OR 97207

*Or brought in person to:*

Portland VA Medical Center  
3710 SW US Veterans Hospital Rd  
Building 16, Room 300  
Portland OR 97239

## **US Citizens must submit:**

1. [VA Form 10-2850c, Application for Associated Health Occupations](#)
2. Resume or CV
3. [OF-306, Declaration for Federal Employment](#) (January 2001 version or later). **(REQUIRED)**.
4. Veterans Preference:
  - a. DD-214, Military Discharge Paper (member copy #4 for July 1979 or later editions) (For 5 Point Veteran's Preference).
  - b. [SF-15, Application for 10-point Veteran Preference](#) (December 2004 version or later)
  - c. VA letter of service-connected disability rating dated 1991 or later.
5. SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action (if applying as a current or former federal employee).
6. Narrative statement relating to all of the KSAs. Candidates **must** submit a narrative statement on a separate page(s) with specific responses to all of the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) in this announcement. Failure to submit your narrative response to all of the KSAs will result in the applicant not being referred for the position.
7. Copies of all current licenses, registrations, or certifications (applicable to job).
8. A copy of your college transcripts (Optional unless education is required).

## **APPLICANT'S PLEASE NOTE:**

- Education must be accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in order for it to be credited towards qualifications (particularly positions with a positive education requirement.). Therefore, applicants must report only attendance and/or degrees from schools accredited by accrediting institutions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
- Applicants can verify accreditation at the following website: <http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html>. All education claimed by applicants will be verified by the appointing agency accordingly.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITY:**

- It is the applicant's responsibility to submit documentation to support his/her application for this position. Applicant is responsible for ensuring that all experience, formal training, award recognition, etc. are documented in the application package. Experience may include voluntary or other non-paid experience in the appropriate field. If you feel that your training record contains information pertinent to your qualifications, then you must submit a printed copy of your training record with your application package. Your training record will become part of the specific vacancy file and will not be filed in Official Personnel Folder. Human Resources Management Division will not photocopy any application material; applicants are responsible for making photocopies prior to submitting applications.
- **It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure timely receipt of the application, regardless of the method used for submission. The VA assumes no responsibility for the late delivery of applications (i.e. postal service delays). The Portland VA Medical Center will not accept FAX, or emailed applications or applications in a US government envelope.**